

As she laid the watch band back in place, Marianne perceived a lock of pale hair, almost white and extremely soft, secured with a rubber band and tied with a frayed blue ribbon. It revived in her the blend of pride and regret every mother feels, seeing the first locks clipped from her offspring's head. Marianne had experienced that same blended feeling many times since the first haircut; each major step in her children's lives had renewed it.

It occurred to her that she had much in common with the shell box. It stored symbols; she stored memories evoked by those symbols. She restored the treasures to their container and with the impression sometimes produced by music, the impression of insight into one's own meaning, she left the room.

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Levels of English

June Reiboldt

WHEN a young student leaves his home and starts out into the world, he becomes aware of many levels of English. He is quickly made to realize that different situations call for different levels of English, just as different situations call for different types of clothes and conduct.

The classroom is usually the first place where the unaware student's mistakes are brought to his attention. Formal usage of pronunciation, grammar, and word meanings are hurled at him. His question, "Can I have this book?" is quickly corrected to, "May I have this book?" The student is equally astounded when he learns that "immanent," "imminent," and "eminent" are three entirely different words, and not just one word with a conglomeration of meanings. Coming from a Hoosier farm, our student also learns that "fish," "dish," and "swish" are in assonance with "Swiss" and not "teach." How he suffers reciting, "I love smooth words like gold enameled fish, that circle slowly with a silken swish!"

The student also must contend with a second level of English which is used in his social world. In the college snack bar his vocabulary can become out-of-date within a few weeks. Even though phrases and words such as "square," "out to lunch," "barf," "sharp," "cool," and "neat" are considered slang, the correct usage of them seems important.

When the student mingles in a more adult social circle, he is confronted with a third level of English, the informal level. He observes that when a cultivated, middle-aged woman is inviting some friends for lunch, she doesn't say to her husband, "I'm having the 'gang' in," or "Are you aware of the fact that I have the intention of inviting some women to lunch." She merely says, "You know, I think I'll invite some women over for lunch."

When this student returns home during the Christmas vacation, he quickly notices numerous errors in the English that his kinsfolk use. Grandpa says,

"Lemme see them eggs, Mom. Where'd yuh get 'em?"

"Bought 'em off'n the huckster, Pa. I knowd they're the weakest one excuse for eggs I ever heerd in my life," Grandma says. The student feels in these colloquial expressions a familiar atmosphere to which he has been accustomed all his life. But having been in contact with many other levels of English, he realizes the language's limitations in its diverse aspects.

One would not use formal English in the college snack bar any more than he would appear there in formal evening attire. A level of English, like a type of clothing, is used in the situation where it is most useful. For example, formal English is used where clarity is necessary. Since it is the most standard level of English, it is used in radio, television, and for the greater body of our literature where information must be understood by many people in different regions. It is important to remember that no one level of English is correct for all occasions.

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Opinion Is Important

James Hilton

TRUE opinion is becoming extinct in our civilization. Nearly every day we hear someone say, "In my opinion. . . ." The speaker then proceeds to expound on a theory which is not his opinion at all but rather that of an ancient philosopher, a well-meaning friend, or an unwise blow-hard. If the opinion is expressed in a political speech, the speaker of the words and the author of them may know each other only from a business standpoint. With the pace of life quickening daily, we tune our television sets to news commentators who give their opinions as well as the objective facts. In addition to these objective facts, we want their views as to the determinants and the consequences of the major news events. In this way we do not have to spend such a great amount of time deciphering all the aspects of the news events in order to have intelligent opinions of the world at large and "the whole problem."

Our civilization, the American ingredient especially, is suffering from a malady known colloquially as "spectatoritis." The victims of this malady are those who want the advantages of an experience without paying the price for it. There are many different kinds of "spectatoritis." If a particular type is diagnosed as that of the athletic variety, the first symptoms are pudginess of body and shortness of breath. If the victim is plagued with the ethics species, one will notice signs of hypocrisy. Should it be of the reasoning group,